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Julia Patterson
Metropolitan King County Council

Take a Hike Ride Your Bike

Recent passage of the parks
levy could mean exciting things
for South King County.

Find out more inside.

Parks & Trails Report

October 2007



Dear Neighbor,

The recent passage of two parks levies by King County voters presents an exciting opportunity to expand and improve the trail system in South King County. The scenic and recreational benefits of parks and trails are vital to our quality of life. A comprehensive trail system also can make cycling an attractive alternative for local commuters. We need to make sure that South King County receives our fair share of new investments and that new trail improvements are coordinated with local city trail systems.

Enclosed you'll find information about expansions to our local trail system I am supporting now that the parks levy has been approved.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,

Julia Patterson
King County Council
District 5



Julia Patterson Working For You

Healthy Communities

Before the King County Council placed the expansion park levy on the ballot, I was able to amend the levy to require that some funding be focused in areas where the population has significant health problems. Many of these areas are located in South King County. Recreation opportunities and walkable communities are tools to help tackle the obesity epidemic and related public health problems.

With passage of the parks levies we can finally begin to improve the trail system in South King County. Connecting existing trails will open up exciting new recreation opportunities and transportation options.

Below are four high-priority possible future connections:

1 Cedar River Trail to Green River Trail: (Two Rivers Trail)

Connecting these two major south end trails will create one of our region's preeminent trails. It would connect the cities of Maple Valley, Renton, Tukwila, Seattle, SeaTac, Kent and Auburn.

2 Soos Creek Trail to Green River and Cedar River Trails:

Coupled with the connection between the Cedar and Green River Trails, this connection will create a complete "South County Loop" for recreation and commuting.

3 Cedar River Trail to Lake Washington Trail:

This connection will allow you to travel from Renton (and points east of Renton) up the east side of Lake

Washington. If the BNSF corridor is acquired, this link will create a "Southern Burke Gilman" trail you could take up the east side of Lake Washington before crossing the I-90 bridge to Seattle.

4 A New Highline Link:

Imagine being able to walk or ride your bike on a trail from the shore of Puget Sound in Des Moines, through SeaTac to Tukwila where you could connect with our regional trail system. The recent passage of the county parks levies could make this vision a reality. In addition to funding key King County trail connections, the parks levy also provides funding to each city to invest in parks and trails. I am working with the cities of Des Moines, SeaTac and Tukwila to explore the possibility of working together with the new funding to complete a city trail network that would connect the Highline area to the regional trail system.

Map for illustrative purposes. For complete map of local trails:
www.metrokc.gov/ftp/gis/web/VMC/recreation/BurSeaTukRen.pdf

